

## Temporary Protected Status (TPS): How the Trump Administration Played Politics with Humanitarian Protections



### **Juana Villanueva and Liane Taracena's Story**

Juana Villanueva is a Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipient from Honduras and long-time resident of Newark, New Jersey who has lived in the United States since 1998. Juana is the mother of one U.S. citizen child, Liane who is 19 years old and was born and raised in Newark. Juana has worked for many years as a housecleaner and at a laundromat to support her daughter in the United States as well as her family in Honduras including her parents and 24-year-old son.

She is proud that she has been able to create a better life for her daughter and to give her the chance to pursue a college education in the United States. Liane is currently in her second year at the College of New Jersey and is a recipient of the Cooperman College Scholarship, which funds academically talented, highly motivated students with financial need from Essex County, NJ. She is studying psychology with a specialization in biopsychology and pre-medicine. She is co-president of the Neuroscience club at TCNJ and also fundraises for Medlife, an organization that plans trips to bring medicine to developing countries. Liane has been an advocate for her mother for many years while fighting for the rights of TPS holders like her as a youth leader with the NJ TPS Committee.

TPS has allowed Juana, who is a single mother, to support herself and her daughter while living in the United States. Juana says that TPS has also enabled her to help keep her family alive in Honduras because of the financial support that she provides them with from the United States. TPS has helped Juana obtain a driver's license, which she uses each day to go to work and without which, she would not have been able to secure decent jobs. Juana and Liane both have developed deep ties to their community in Newark. For several years they were members of St. Leo's Parish of the Archdiocese of Newark, while Liane also spent many summers attending academic enrichment programs for youth in the county.

Having built their lives together in the United States, Liane and Juana both describe the stress they experience at the possibility of Juana being forced to return to her home country. Liane emphasizes that her mother continues to be her back bone and primary source of support. If TPS were terminated, Juana and Liane would be indefinitely separated from one another and Juana's sister would be Liane's only remaining relative in the U.S. Liane is also fearful for the conditions that her mother would find herself in if she were to return to Honduras, having seen firsthand on a trip as a teenager the violence that persists in her mother's hometown. Liane says that if TPS were ended, she would likely not be able to keep up with her course load at school due to the combined stress of Juana's deportation. In Honduras, Juana would not be able to find a job that would allow her to continue supporting her family. She is worried about the impact that losing TPS would have on both her and her daughter and their dreams for a life in the United States that they have together.